
ABSTRACTS

Mexico: two years under la Madrid

This article follows on from a previous one published in «Revista CIDOB d'Afers Internacionals n.º 4» under the title «Background and causes of the Mexican crisis». The present article is an attempt to describe the Mexican reality, particularly the economic situation two years into la Madrid's presidency.

In mid-1982, under the Government of López Portillo, Mexico entered the most severe and prolonged crisis in its recent history, which clearly demonstrated the weakness of the country's economy. Today, two years after la Madrid's election the Urgent Economic Reorganization Programme (Programa Inmediato de Reordenación Económi-

ca) which covers the 1983-85 period, is reaping its first successes. Public expenditure has been kept under control through strict austerity measures, inflation has been curbed and some payments of the foreign debt have been renegotiated for 1998.

Though these have been important achievements there remain serious problems still to be solved. The rapid population growth requires an increase in job offers, investors are reluctant to invest their capital in the productive sector and social problems persist. This article analyzes in detail the economic policy adopted by la Madrid's government and its achievements.

The swing towards the South in Spain's defense policy

This paper proposes some discussions points concerning important aspects of the Spanish defense policy under the Socialist Government, namely, the new priority approach given to the South.

In the last two years, the Government led by Mr González has in fact, adopted important measures to deal with the extensive area that makes up the Balearic-Canaries axis, and includes the strait of Gibraltar. This territory is at the core of the PEC (Joint Strategic Plan) —a key secret document on defen-

se policy which should have been finished at the end of 1984. Amongst the many measures implemented to strengthen the technical security devices in the South, it is important to highlight two which are the result of the restructuring programme of the Armed Forces started by the Defense Minister, Mr Serra, namely the renewed importance of the Third Military Region and the merge of the Granada and Seville Military Regions. These two measures, which will be dealt with in detail later,

mark a departure from the defense policy followed under Franco which centered on de-centralization and breaks with previous policies in that it attaches the same, if not more, importance to the Mediterranean Bassin and the Atlantic coast.

The restructuring of the Armed Forces undertaken in 1982 puts an end to decentralization which, as the term denotes, consisted in the deployment of the largest possible number of soldiers (there were still over 400,000 of these in 1975) over the whole of the continental and insular territory including the African colonies of Ceuta and Melilla. Such was the policy followed by Spain throughout the isolationist period—1939 to the mid fifties, though it became gradually less important in the mid sixties.

The means adopted by Spain in order to renew the priority of the Western Mediterranean as well as the Southwestern European and North-African parts of the Atlantic coast seem to indicate that a reawakening of the country's Mediterranean identity has taken place. Spain's coastal territory on the Mediterranean is greater than on the Atlantic (1664 kms on the former as compared with 1481 on the latter), yet the country had become essentially Atlantic in ou-

tlook since the end of the autarkic period at the close of the fifties.

The definitive end of the decentralization policy and the growth of a new perception of the Mediterranean, the Southwestern European and North-African Atlantic regions denote and point at a change in Spain's strategic policy the very nature of which, is difficult to grasp as there are no clear explanations of the reasons which have led the Socialist Government to favour the South in its defense policy.

There is no strategic plan which could explain the meaning of the changes taking place under our very eyes. Nevertheless, here and there some infrequent comments made by politicians or members of the military as well as brief news items leaked to the Press concerning the PEC, lead observers to believe that the swing to the South is due to security concerns which, as shall be seen later, result from the existence of potential sources of threat in the Southern coast of the Mediterranean.

In this paper, therefore, we shall only deal with some discussion points, based on three hypothesis concerning the eventual consequences of this change for Spain itself, for the future of the NATO Alliance and for Spain's bilateral relations with the US.

The foreign policy of the PSOE during the Spanish transition period from illegality to the Constitution (1974-78)

This is the first of three articles which will analyze the basis of the PSOE's foreign policy during the transition period. The party's position concerning international affairs attracted a good deal of interest during that particular period in Spain and its importance, as regards international affairs gradually increased.

At that time, the PSOE was still permeated by the years of clandestine existence and repression but as time went on the party became increasingly aware of the changes which were taking

place and it became apparent that in order to retain a protagonist rôle it had to overcome tradition in international relations began to adapt to the party's present position. The adaptation was as yet partial as the party was still an opposition party. The greatest changes would come later when the PSOE formed its first Government and today we are still witnessing these changes in the doubts, lack of decisiveness and clarity in the Spanish Government's foreign policy.

Our starting point is the PSOE's XIII

Congress in exile held in Suresnes (France) in October 1974.

The significance of the XIII Congress was double: it was the last one held in exile and it was at that congress that Mr González consolidated his leadership, thus dealing a final blow to the Llopiés leadership.

Four years elapsed from the party's congress to the promulgation of the Constitution. During those four years, important political developments took place; the political parties could finally

organize freely and openly and became part of the Spanish political life.

Spain became another member of the international community, the country approved the Political Reform Bill, voted its first democratic Cortes and finally gave itself the democratic Constitution of 1978. Such was the transition process.

It is not our intention here to analyze in detail the transition period, though it will be necessary to refer to it, given its particular nature.

The problems of the «Southern flank»

It seems unnecessary to stress the extraordinary importance that space has in trying to deal scientifically with international affairs. Recently *Ives Lacoste* reminded us that nowadays the rôle played by geopolitical thinking is of outmost importance. Furthermore, the growing interest in strategic studies derives from what is known as the militarization of politics and reflects —regrettably or not— the increasingly close association between the civil and military space as fundamental elements of the *political space*.

On these bases, and with reference to a specific area (which, because it is convenient and it is a shortened version of a term frequently used in NATO to refer to the countries in the Mediterranean region, I shall refer to as the

«Southern flank») I propose to analyze the common points of the Spanish state's foreign and defense policies and the reasons behind these, in the country's attempt to draw up and consolidate a *security policy*. I shall take as a point of reference the victory of the PSOE in general elections of October 1982.

On the Southern flank of the Iberian peninsula and around the strait of Gibraltar, an area of considerable strategic importance, there exist «two conflict zones» —as a Franco A. Casadio describes them— namely, the *Maghreb Region* (in which Casadio includes Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, the Western Sahara, Mauritania and Mali) and the *Western Mediterranean Region* (Portugal, Spain, France and Italy).

OECD's 25th Anniversary

On the 14/12/1960 the European Organization for Economic Development, enlarged with the USA and Canada became the OECD. Thus emerged in the Parisian Quay d'Orsay the organization which now celebrated its 25th anniversary.

This anniversary could well go unnoticed at a time when the international community is clearly concerned with more specific matters: Great Britain's

withdrawal from UNESCO, OPEC's inability to enforce itself with the oil cartel, the very serious breakdown of the International Tix Agreement, the problems faced by UNCTAD in trying to establish a Common Fund for Commodities, the precarious consent given by the Least Developed Countries to the tackling of the problems posed by services in the next round of talks of GATT the EEC's efforts to ensure that the new

enlargement will not jeopardize the process of European integration and the problems faced by the UN in its 40th anniversary.

This article deals with the back-

ground to the creation of the EOC, the organization's present and future as well as with the consequences for Spain of its membership in this 24 member country organization.